

Claim Listing

The following listing of claims, if entered, replaces all previous versions of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for maintaining a unique session ID in a network,~~
comprising:
creating a unique session identifier for a user, wherein
the unique session identifier is unique with respect to a plurality of network
access servers; and
providing the unique session identifier to ~~[[a]]~~ an Authentication, Authorization, and
Accounting (AAA) software module that provides for performing authentication,
wherein
each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from
the AAA module.
2. (Currently Amended) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:
the creating [[a]] the unique session identifier further comprises appending a unique
identifier associated with an access server to a local session identifier,
the unique identifier is associated with one of the network access servers, and
the one of the network access servers generates the unique session identifier.
3. (Original) The method recited in Claim 2, wherein:
the unique identifier is an IP address.
4. (Original) The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
providing the unique session identifier to an off-load server.
5. (Currently Amended) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:
creating a unique session identifier further comprises creating a unique session identifier
for each of the a plurality of network access servers.
6. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a network access server, ~~the network access server being associated with a corresponding~~
unique identifier;

wherein the network access server is configured to generate a unique ~~corresponding local~~
 session identifier for a user; and

wherein the unique session identifier is unique with respect to a plurality of network
access servers,

wherein the plurality of network access servers include the network access server;

wherein the network access server is configured to provide the unique session identifier
to an AAA module; and

wherein the AAA module performs AAA processing for each of the plurality of network
access servers

~~wherein the network server is further configured to generate a corresponding unique~~
 session identifier.

7. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 6, wherein:

the network access server is associated with ~~the unique identifier is an IP address; and~~
the unique session identifier comprises the IP address.

8. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 6, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

~~the network access server is one of a plurality of network access servers;~~

wherein each of the plurality of network access servers is configured to generate a
~~corresponding local session identifier; and~~

~~each of the plurality of network servers is further configured to generate a corresponding~~
 unique session identifier.

9. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:

an off-load server, the off-load server being coupled to receive the ~~corresponding~~ unique
 session identifier from the network access server.

10. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:

the off-load server is configured to provide the ~~corresponding~~ unique session identifier to
the AAA module ~~a software module that is configured to perform accounting~~
~~processing.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:
the off-load server is configured to provide the ~~corresponding~~ unique session identifier to
~~a software~~ the AAA module, and
the AAA module ~~that~~ is configured to perform port counting.
12. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:
~~a software module that is configured to perform~~ the AAA module authentication, the
AAA software module being further configured to receive the ~~corresponding~~
unique session identifier from the network access server.
13. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 6, wherein:
the network access server is further configured to generate the ~~corresponding~~ unique
session identifier by appending an ~~the unique~~ IP address of the network access
server ~~with to a~~ the local session identifier.
14. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:
the off-load server is further configured to generate a start record, the off-load server
being further configured to associate the start record with the ~~corresponding~~
unique session identifier; and
the off-load server is further configured to provide the start record to the AAA ~~a software~~
module that provides for performing accounting processing.
15. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 9, further wherein:
the off-load server is further configured to generate a stop record, the off-load server
being further configured to associate the stop record with the ~~corresponding~~
unique session identifier; and
the off-load server is further configured to provide the stop record to the AAA ~~a software~~
module that provides for performing accounting processing.
16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
means for creating a unique session identifier for a user, wherein
the unique session identifier is unique with respect to a plurality of network
access servers; and

means for providing the unique session identifier to an AAA ~~a software module that provides for performing authentication, wherein~~
each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from the AAA module.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, wherein:
 means for creating a unique session identifier further comprises means for appending a unique identifier associated with a network ~~the~~ access server to a local session identifier.

18. (Original) The apparatus recited in Claim 17 wherein:
 the unique identifier is an IP address.

19. (Original) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, further comprising:
 means for providing the unique session identifier to an off-load server.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, wherein:
 means for creating a unique session identifier further comprises means for creating a unique session identifier for each of the ~~a plurality of~~ network access devices.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, encoded in computer readable media, comprising:
 a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to create a unique session identifier for a user, wherein
the unique session identifier is unique with respect to a plurality of network access servers; and
 a second set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to provide the unique session identifier to an AAA ~~a software module that provides for performing authentication, wherein~~
each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from the AAA module.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, wherein:

the first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, is further configured to append a unique identifier associated with ~~an access server~~ one of the network access servers to a local session identifier.

23. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, wherein:

the unique identifier is an IP address.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, further comprising:

a third ~~second~~ set of instructions, executable on a computer system configured to provide the unique session identifier to an off-load server.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, wherein:

the first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, is further configured to create a unique session identifier for each of the ~~a plurality of~~ network access servers.